

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, they just gave me a handout that says, yes, Senator Beyer is cooking. I wish that were literally true. You all have been roasting me this morning but I am not going to go away. This is an amendment which is something that I think you can relate to. It is dealing with two intercollegiate athletic programs. And I am going to have another to deal with UN-L's separately, or NU's. There is an amount being taken from these athletic programs and I think that amount ought not be taken. Intercollegiate athletics, despite the way they have been distorted and commercialized...

PRESIDENT: The call of the house is raised.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...do serve a worthwhile and beneficial function in the overall educating process. If you turn to page 6, that is where you will find the amendment that I am offering. Item number 8, or it is (b), is UN-O, and I am striking "intercollegiate athletics" so that they will not be cut. And under Agency 50 state colleges, I am striking that \$303,000 amount. I talked to Senator Hannibal about this and he had indicated that the committee did not give a dictate to UN-O or the state colleges that they have to cut this money from the athletic program. And what I told him is that should UN-O and the state colleges feel that these programs are important and try to get money from here and there to try to fund them, wherever they take the money from will be viewed by the Legislature as a place to cut next year because the Legislature will say, you thought games were more important than education. But again we are dealing in hypocrisy because the legislators love Big Red football because it is a winner. So they are going to leave Big Red football alone. The cut in intercollegiate athletics that they are taking from UN-L will not hurt the football team. That is also a holy sacred item that is not to be touched at any cost. What I am trying to do with this amendment is make sure that activities which have been a part of University and college life for eons, so to speak, ought to be retained as a part of that college life. These intercollegiate athletic programs are struggling along at UN-O and at the state colleges and I think you may as well offer a total abolition amendment rather than cut them so